drum farm. Government also sanctioned the establishment of an Agricultural Laboratory. The Trivandrum farm is being considerably extended, and, as no suitable land can be had at Quilon for extending the farm there, arrangements have been made for opening a new farm at Kottarakara. As the work of the Agricultural Department is familiar to most of you, through the numerous leaflets issued by the Director, I shall content myself with remarking that Government are satisfied with the line of work adopted by the Director and they trust that he will continue to have the cordial co-operation of the agricultural classes.

9. Cocoanut Palm Disease:—The area affected by the cocoanut blight in North Travancore has at last been delimited. It is estimated to be about 80 square miles—not in one block, but in several blocks, spread over ten taluks of the State. Government are not unmindful of the serious nature of the situation. I mentioned in my last address that the investigations of the Imperial Mycologist, Dr. Butler, were being followed up by the Director of Agriculture and that the latter had been given funds for conducting a series of experiments in selected gardens affected by the disease. Considerable progress has since been made with these experiments. In making them, the Department has been following generally the lines suggested by Dr. Butler. It is too early to draw any definite inferences from these experiments. As pointed out by Dr. Butler, the most difficult of all fungus diseases to check are those which affect the roots of plants, the parasite, which is the probable cause of the cocoanut disease in Travancore, enters into the tissues of the living roots and is out of the reach of any direct treatment, and no *ready* cure can therefore be looked for. The one obvious remedy of eradicating the disease, by destroying all the diseased material and so preventing further infection, is not practicable, for the reason that the area affected is large, and it would be useless to cut down a diseased tree unless the roots also are dug out and burnt. The experiments recommended by Dr. Butler were by way of applying manures or other substances to the roots of the palms, improving the general health of the trees, searching for disease-resistant varieties and ridding the infected soil of the parasite before replanting. The experiments, which are being made by the Agricultural Department, are in the above directions. As already stated, it is too early to draw definite conclusions from the experiments. It is however seen that, when the general health of a diseased tree is improved by careful culture and the application of suitable manures, it manifests a visible tendency to throw off the disease.

10. Veterinary:—A Veterinary Hospital was opened during the year at Kottayam, and another was sanctioned since the close of the year for Nagercoil, so that we have now three hospitals in the State, as against only one which we had a year ago. A fourth hospital will, in due course, be sanctioned for Quilon.

Forest Revenue.

11. Forests:—The work of the Forest Department during the year lay mainly in the systematic demarcation of the boundaries of the Reserves, the settlement of disputes which had hitherto escaped enquiry, a careful inspection of several

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